

Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

Week 7

Passage: Amos 7

Big Thought:

The book of Amos closes with several visions from the prophet that are symbolic depictions of the coming Day of the Lord. Amos sees Israel wiped out by a locust swarm, then by a devouring fire, and finally being swallowed up like overripe fruit in chapter 8.

First, the locust swarm. Amos, as a prophet, stands between God and His people often communicating to both parties about the other. So, God lets Amos see the possible disaster of a locust swarm that could leave Israel with no food. Amos cries out to God, intervening for the nation of Israel – God listens and relents.

Second, Amos sees a catastrophic fire. Again, Amos cries out on behalf of the people – God listens and relents. In the third vision, the original language can differ from common translations, but the point is this – “God intends to impose a weight of trouble on the people, including the slaughter of Jeroboam’s kingly line.”¹

Evidently Amos gave this warning at the sanctuary at Bethel which is why Amaziah is trying to shut him down. To us this may not seem like a big deal, but the sanctuary at Bethel was set up by Jeroboam’s namesake when he established Ephraim as a state. That means Amos was delivering this judgement message against the nation and its ruler in the state sanctuary – think the National Cathedral or Westminster Abbey. Amos seems clear in his message: judgement is coming.

3 Questions:

1. Amos’ message of judgement is because of the people’s sin yet there is a desire to quiet his prophetic voice, avoid admitting fault, and maintain the status quo. In what ways do we deny our wrongdoing to maintain the status quo?
2. In our personal relationship with God, what are some practical ways we can grow in recognizing our wrongdoings and admitting our faults to Him?
3. As a community of faith, how do we help each other recognize our shortcomings and work towards growth?

¹ “Daniel and the Twelve Prophets for Everyone” by John Goldingay, pg. 138